

MNC-6145

2 December 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- November

I. GENERAL

A. Construction of the new bureau continues at a steady pace. The overall status at the end of November is as follows: The main building is now about 75 % completed. Current efforts are focusing on the roof membrane and on interior and exterior finishing work. Outbuildings are now roughly 70 % completed. The perimeter security wall is virtually finished, except for a small construction accessway. Walkways on the grounds are about 50 % completed, while the area designated as the parking lot has been compacted but not yet asphalted. The cable trench that will carry both electrical and signal lines is now 90 % completed. The weekly construction reports filed by the RECD engineer provide more detail of specific aspects of the construction.

B. Our new site generated considerable comment this month in KHARAYVI, the newspaper of the local communist party, AKEL. We don't know why AKEL chose this time to start talking about "spy stations", but it may have been linked to the convening of the party's 16th congress on 26 November. The majority of articles attacked the Government of Cyprus for agreeing to the construction of a new American "spy station." Sparse comment and reportage also appeared in other Cypriot and Greek papers and in Moscow's radio services beamed to the area. All items referring to construction of the new bureau and "spy stations" in general have been processed and filed to headquarters.

This publicity, combined with embassy-supplied information about a new specific terrorist plan to target a U.S. facility in Cyprus, prompted the bureau earlier in the month to arrange for watchmen at the site at night and over weekends. We now have two watchmen on duty each shift and the GOC has increased roving police patrols in the vicinity of the new bureau.

The Cypriot press also focused on the new terrorist threat itself when Nicosia's O AGON newspaper, a generally pro-government publication not on regular coverage, claimed in its 25 November edition that Cypriot security authorities have "specific" information that terrorists are planning to strike at local U.S. and British targets in order to secure the release of two Palestinians and one Briton being held in the Central Prison for the murder of three Israelis at Larnaca Marina last year. On the following day, Nicosia ALITHIA, a paper that favors the rightwing DISI party, cited "responsible sources" as reporting that the new FBIS site under construction was viewed as the "No. One target" in the plans of terrorists operating in Cyprus. The paper declared that unidentified people had been seen taking photographs at the site, and alleged that these photos are now in the hands of terrorist organizations whose primary goal is to "blow up the U.S. station." At present embassy officers tend to discount the sources of this information, but bureau personnel are being particularly alert to any unusual activity around their homes or the bureau. The GOC has enhanced the police presence around the embassy and bureau. As noted above, police patrols are being made at the new site.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In response to a high-level consumer request, Nicosia Bureau was able to obtain a copy of the 3 November issue of the Beirut weekly AL-SHIRA', a pro-Syrian publication not on regular coverage, from a local vendor on 5 November. The article of interest, which referred to the alleged visit to Tehran last month by former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, was processed as rapidly as possible.

2. On 7 November, AG relayed a Washington consumer's interest in receiving a speech delivered by Iranian Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in Qom, and reportedly published in the 6 November edition of the Beirut daily AL-SAFIR but not carried by the Iranian media. Bureau receipt of the Beirut daily press has been sporadic for some time, and this particular issue proved not to be available either from our normal distributor or from local vendors. AL-SAFIR's 7 November edition, however, published a report on the speech, attributed to various press agencies including IRNA, and providing several quotes. This report was filed in lieu of the unobtainable 6 November edition. As it turned out, PMU, in response to a our request that they also seek to obtain the 6 November issue, reported later that the text of the ayatollah's speech had not been published therein.

3. Paris AFP monitored at Nicosia carried a report late on 29 November citing a "world exclusive" article published in that day's edition of the Athens DHIMOKRATIKOS LOGOS newspaper, a Socialist pro-government publication not on regular coverage, which claimed that Iran had secretly recorded talks held during Robert McFarlane's visit to Tehran for use in possible future "blackmail" of its "imperialist partner." Aware of the intense consumer interest in foreign media reportage on the alleged U.S. arms deal with Iran, the bureau procured the paper from an all-night local vendor and processed the article on a same-day basis. The Wire has since expressed priority consumer interest in any follow-up reportage on the subject of the alleged tapes.

4. In light of conflicting reports on the release of French hostages being held by the Muslim fundamentalist Organization of Revolutionary Justice, the bureau remained open past its normal COB on 10 November to cover an anticipated additional newscast from the Phalangist Party's Voice of Lebanon radio, which had earlier reported on the issue. However, the radio merely repeated an item citing a previously filed AFP report on the kidnappers' claim to have released two of the three French hostages in detention. With Wire concurrence the bureau closed following this newscast.

5. In a 5 November telephone call to the Lebanese Forces' clandestine Radio Free Lebanon (RFL), the Scholar Shaykh Subhi Salih Group of the Youths of 'Ali Movement claimed responsibility for detonating a bomb at the Al-Sana'i' radio station (Beirut Domestic Service). The caller demanded that Ghazi Kan'an, the head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, be executed for his involvement in the killing of several of the group's prominent leaders. Beirut Domestic was immediately placed on open watch, but was observed to continue regular programming without discernable interruption.

Beirut radio was also the target of a warning issued following a 30 November rocket attack on the building housing the Channel 7 television station in West Beirut. A caller to RFL who claimed to speak on behalf of the 'Umar al-Mukhtar Forces said that the television station was attacked because it was "no longer Lebanese," but controlled by the Amal Movement under the direction of Syrian intelligence. The caller then announced that Beirut radio would face a similar attack if it continued to report in favor of the "Amal gangs."

6. Embassy officers were alerted to a 15 November report carried by the Turkish ANATOLIA news agency noting that northern Cyprus had closed the Ledra Palace crossing point in response to Greek Cypriot protests against Turkish Cypriot celebrations marking the third anniversary of the declaration of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The crossing point was reopened a few hours later.

The bureau also kept appropriate Embassy officers informed throughout the month on the media campaign related to the construction of our new bureau site and on local reportage involving the anti-U.S. terrorist threat.

7. The ongoing labor dispute at the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation again disrupted Nicosia radio and television services this month. Work stoppages interrupted Nicosia television transmission nightly from 4 to 7 November, and again on 10 November, while the radio suffered a 1-hour interruption on 22 November as a result of a trade union strike.

8. The Paris AFP English service monitored here was interrupted for a total of 3 hours on 26 and 27 November as a result of work stoppages called by AFP technicians in sympathy with a printers' strike in Paris.

B. Technical

1. Detailed drawings were prepared for the installation of the communications lines required at our new bureau, and were forwarded to the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA) in conjunction with an application for all services required of CYTA at the new site.

2. Equipment dispatched:

--A General Electric base transceiver Model F156LCS66A was sent to Austria Bureau, along with coaxial cable and the necessary connectors.

--A Stabiline voltage regulator Model FR-501-BMP was sent to Paraguay Bureau.

--Six Panasonic audio cassette recorders Model RQ-2309 were sent to Tel Aviv Bureau.

3. Equipment received:

--Seven crates of various equipment and supplies were received from the former Gulf Bureau.

--One Reaction Instruments VHF/UHF antenna multicoupler Model 414A-8 and five audio select assemblies Model ST-112 were received from Headquarters.

--Six Extel RD printers Model AF-11R were received from Tel Aviv.

III. Administration

A. Personnel

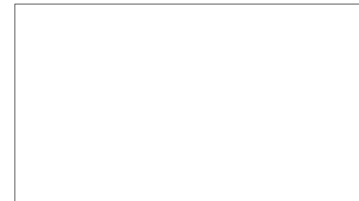
1. Senior Editor [] departed Cyprus on 3 November to assume her new duties as the deputy chief of Key West Bureau. STAT

2. Regional Engineer [] TDY to Jordan Bureau 18-21 November for semi-annual inspection. STAT

3. Chief Teletypist [] has begun a commercial course on computers at bureau expense in preparation for the assumption of duties as the bureau's systems controller. STAT

B. Visitors

1. [] chief of AG's Middle East Branch, visited the bureau 11-14 November within a general tour of the area. ✓ STAT



Bureau Chief
Nicosia Bureau

ATTACHMENT: Production Report

Nicosia Bureau Production Report for November 1986

TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	349490
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	123030
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1159

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
I. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	9180.00 min.	22260.00 min.	117.00 issues
II. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (publishable words per month)			

CHINA			
Beijing in			
Persian to Iran	0		

CLANDESTINE			
(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in			
Arabic	22150		
(Clandestine) Radio Iran in			
Persian	220		
(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in			
Arabic	8690		

CYPRUS			
Nicosia Domestic Service in			
Greek	11630		
Nicosia Television Service in			
Greek	310		
Nicosia ALITHIA in			370
Greek			
Nicosia Cyprus MAIL in			750
English			
Nicosia ELEVOTHEROTIPIA in			890
Greek			
Nicosia ELEVOTHEROTIPIA tis DHEFTERAS			
in			
Greek			0
Nicosia I SIMERINI in			1370
Greek			
Nicosia I SIMERINI tis DHEFTERAS in			0
Greek			
Nicosia KHARAVYI in			9090
Greek			

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Nicosia KHARAVYI tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			1400
Nicosia O AGON in Greek			270
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS in Greek			660
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
Nicosia TA NEA in Greek			730
EGYPT			
Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic	29860		
Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic	1040		
Cairo MENA in Arabic		61970	
Cairo MENA in English		4390	
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		21960	
GREECE			
Athens Domestic Service in Greek	12960		
Athens ATHENS NEWS in English			2070
Athens DHIMOKRATIKOS LOGOS in Greek			1230
Athens ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			3250
Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek			0
Athens KIRIAKATIKI ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			0
Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			520
IRAN			
Tehran International Service in French	0		
Tehran Domestic Service in Persian	24110		

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
-----------------	-------------------	-------------------

IRAQ		
Baghdad in		
Persian to Iran	0	
LEBANON		
Beirut Domestic Service in		
Arabic	39890	
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in		
Arabic	30640	
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in		
English	210	
Beirut Voice of National		
Resistance in		
Arabic	6020	
Beirut Ihdin Radio of Free & Unified		
Lebanon in		
Arabic	180	
Beirut AL-SHIRA in		3440
Arabic		
Beirut AL_NAHAR in		0
Arabic		
Beirut AL_SAFIR in		2260
Arabic		
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in		0
English		
LIBYA		
Tripoli Domestic Service in		
Arabic	1450	
QATAR		
Doha Domestic Service in		
Arabic	1730	
TURKEY		
Ankara YANKI in		
Turkish		600
Istanbul BULVAR in		
Turkish		670
Istanbul CUMHURIYET in		
Turkish		6440
Istanbul DUNYA in		
Turkish		0
Istanbul GUNAYDIN in		
Turkish		350

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
-----------------	-------------------	-------------------

Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish		3880
Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish		12090
Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish		4300

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian	4010
Moscow in Greek to Cyprus	1010
Moscow in Persian to Iran	5660
Baku Domestic Service in Azeri	900
Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek	330

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic	1540
--------------------------------------	------